

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14-17 are pending.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Examiner argues that a locking pin spring which provides a locking pin spring bias to bias the locking pin towards the non-engaged position is not disclosed in the specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant refers to:

Once the trapped pin is freed from the frame rail 16, such as by slightly moving the trailer, a ping spring 46 drives the pin out of the frame rail openings 18 as the bias from link spring 44 is removed from the pin 38. That is, the pin spring 46 which is normally compressed by the link spring 44 and that compression is only overcome when the link 34 is retracted by the actuator 24.

[Specification ¶28 and Figure 4.]

Applicant has amended the specification to specifically rename the pin spring 46 to a locking pin spring 46 such that the terminology utilized in the specification exactly matches that utilized in the claims. Nonetheless, even without this amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that a locking pin spring which provides a locking pin spring bias to bias said locking pin towards said non-engaged position properly complies and is readily understood as being the pin spring 46 as originally recited in Applicant's specification.

Applicant has submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) (to now issued U.S. Patent No. 7,097,192) to overcome the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Schueman* (5531467). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. *Schueman* discloses only that each pin 74 is biased towards its extended position by means of a spring 84 disposed between the mounting plate 76 and a radial flange 86 around the pin towards its outer end [Col. 4, lines 42-46].

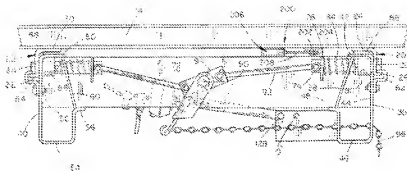


FIG. 4

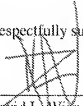
Schueman fails to disclosed or suggest a locking spring and a link pin spring which provide a bias relationship as recited in Applicant's amended claims. In fact, *Schueman* discloses only a single spring 84 which interacts with each pin 74. The amended claims are therefore properly allowable.

Claims 16 and 17 specifically recite wherein said link pin spring is disposed at least partially around said locking pin. Even under the Examiner's improperly broad interpretation, *Schueman* fails to disclose a link pin disposed at least partially around said locking pin wherein said link pin spring biases said locking pin towards said engaged position. Claims 16 and 17 are properly allowable for this reason in addition to that discussed above.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the \$130 disclaimer fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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